

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-23 and 29-34.

Please enter the following new or amended claims:

B1
24. (Amended) An array of polynucleotides, comprising:

a closely packed planar array of microparticles, the closely packed planar array having either a number of microparticles per unit area that is at least eighty percent of the number of microparticles in a hexagonal array of equal area or an average distance between centers of adjacent microparticles less than two microparticle diameters; and

a plurality of different polynucleotides attached to the microparticles such that each different polynucleotide is attached to a different microparticle.

Please cancel claim 25.

Please add claim 35.

B4
35. (New) The array of polynucleotides of claim 24, wherein said closely packed planar array has a number of microparticles per unit area that is at least eighty percent of the number of microparticles in a hexagonal array of equal area.

PLEASE NOTE:

The pending claims as amended (with amendments indicated)

are set forth in Exhibit A

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 25, and 29-34 have been cancelled, claim 24 has been amended, and claim 35 has been added. Claims 24, 26, 27, 28, and 35 are currently pending in the application.

Applicants respectfully disagree that the Examiner's restriction of prosecution is necessary or required; however, in order to expedite prosecution, Applicant elects to prosecute the claims of Group V drawn to an array of microparticle-bound polynucleotides. Accordingly, claims 1-23 and 29-34 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The specification has been amended to include an Abstract of the Invention, as requested by the Examiner. Wording for the abstract was taken from the cover sheet of the International Application (PCT/US98/11224; WO 98/53300) on which the present U.S. application is based.